

# LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

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The Boundary Committee  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London  
SW1P 2HW

Dear Sir/Madam

## Unitary Authority Electoral Review of Cornwall

The council appreciates that the overall number of councillors to be elected to the Unitary Authority (UA) will be the main determinant of the size of wards and it understands that the number of electors in each ward will be kept to within 10% of a county average. This creates problems for Liskeard as recently the town has been grouped with Dobwalls and Trewidland CP for county elections. The Council has resolved that Liskeard's needs would be better represented by a number of single member wards that were constructed within the current parish boundaries. This leads naturally to two or three unitary councillors for the town.

The council is also aware that the larger the average electorate per councillor the greater the area to be covered by councillors representing rural parishes. It does not have the information or resources to analyse this in detail but after discussion members came to the following conclusions.

Currently there are 82 county councillors and 249 district councillors overseeing services supplied by county and district authorities. Cutting this in half would be a major saving at the expense of less scrutiny of the activities of the bureaucracy. The council recognised that advice from officers of the Implementation Executive was that 165 UA councillors would probably be more than the boundary committee would support. Members felt that a UA of 140 councillors represented a fair compromise as this gave an average electorate in 2012 of 3107. Such a number would enable rural wards to be kept smaller, still provide a 58% cut in representation but give flexibility to the task of governance in the future. The council felt that this was necessary because so much of how the new arrangements will work is still unknown. A larger number of councillors gives a better chance of delivering a responsive council. With a smaller number of councillors the UA will have to rely more on bureaucracy and all the attendant issues that go with such arrangements. 140 UA councillors would give Liskeard Parish 3 members and enable Dobwalls and Trewidland parish to be grouped with other rural parishes with similar problems and needs.

Councillors felt that multi-member wards created uncertain lines of responsibility and that single member wards were best and should be applied to Liskeard. This was particularly relevant because a lot of new development is programmed for what is currently the north ward and this needs to be addressed whatever the final decision.

With regard to the Town Council elections under a three ward arrangement the Council resolved that 5 town councillors per ward would be reasonable giving a total Town Council of 15 members against a current 16 in 2 wards. If Liskeard has 2 wards, arrangements should remain as they are at present. If Liskeard is joined with another parish for UA elections then it would be necessary to revisit the issue.

Yours sincerely



TOWN CLERK